



Salt Gulch Trail



Mountain Bikers enjoy Salt Gulch descents.

TRAIL HEAD DIRECTIONS (Via Peltier Trailhead)

Starting at the Whiskeytown Visitor Center, drive south on Kennedy Memorial Drive towards Whiskeytown Dam. The road forks. Take the left fork which changes names to Paige Bar Road. Do not take the right fork over the dam. Turn right on Peltier Valley Road across from the Mt. Shasta Mine parking area.

The Peltier trailhead is located approximately 2.7 miles from the Peltier Bridge Campground. The road is open from late spring through late fall depending on the weather. It is unpaved and crosses a shallow, seasonal stream. A high clearance vehicle is recommended. When the road is closed, park at the campground and hike up to the Peltier Trailhead.

The other approach from the road to Brandy Creek Falls is very steep.

TRAIL DESCRIPTION

Starting at the Peltier trailhead sign, the path ascends, winding around to a southern exposure. After approximately 0.5 miles, Salt

FEATURES

- 1.6 miles one way
- Trail popular with mountain biking enthusiasts
- Distant view of Mt. Lassen Volcanic National Park
- Extensive shaded forest with sugar pine and unique cones
- Connects to Peltier Trail and road to Brandy Creek Falls

Gulch Trail will intersect from the right. Here, excellent views across the Central Valley can be seen with distant views of Mt. Lassen Volcanic National Park and the southern Cascade Mountains.

This trail is popular with mountain bikers who pioneered this into a park trail. Bicyclists enjoy the steep descents into the Brandy Creek drainage on the western side of the trail.

Once on the summit, the trail drops down into the Brandy Creek drainage to Rich Gulch. This is where several steep sections of the trail are severely eroded. Use caution on the steep downhill.

Once over the ridge, distant views of Whiskeytown Lake can be had, along with distant views of the Trinity Alps to the far northwest.

The trail passes through extensive shaded forest, one can sense the beauty of the forest primeval. Large oaks, sugar pine, ponderosa pine and remnant Douglas fir are scattered throughout the forest.

This trail rises up into the higher elevations of the park. Hikers can encounter snow following winter storms. The area has abundant signs of wildlife with deer, black bear, and mountain lion.

Salt Gulch Trail, like Rich Gulch and Brandy Creek Trails, is an old logging haul road. The road was

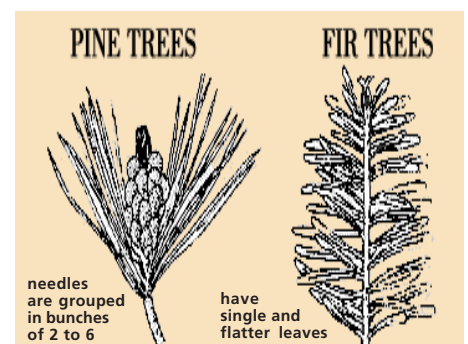


Sugar pine cones measure between 10 and 18 inches in length.

used to remove large trees from the Peltier and Brandy Creek drainages.

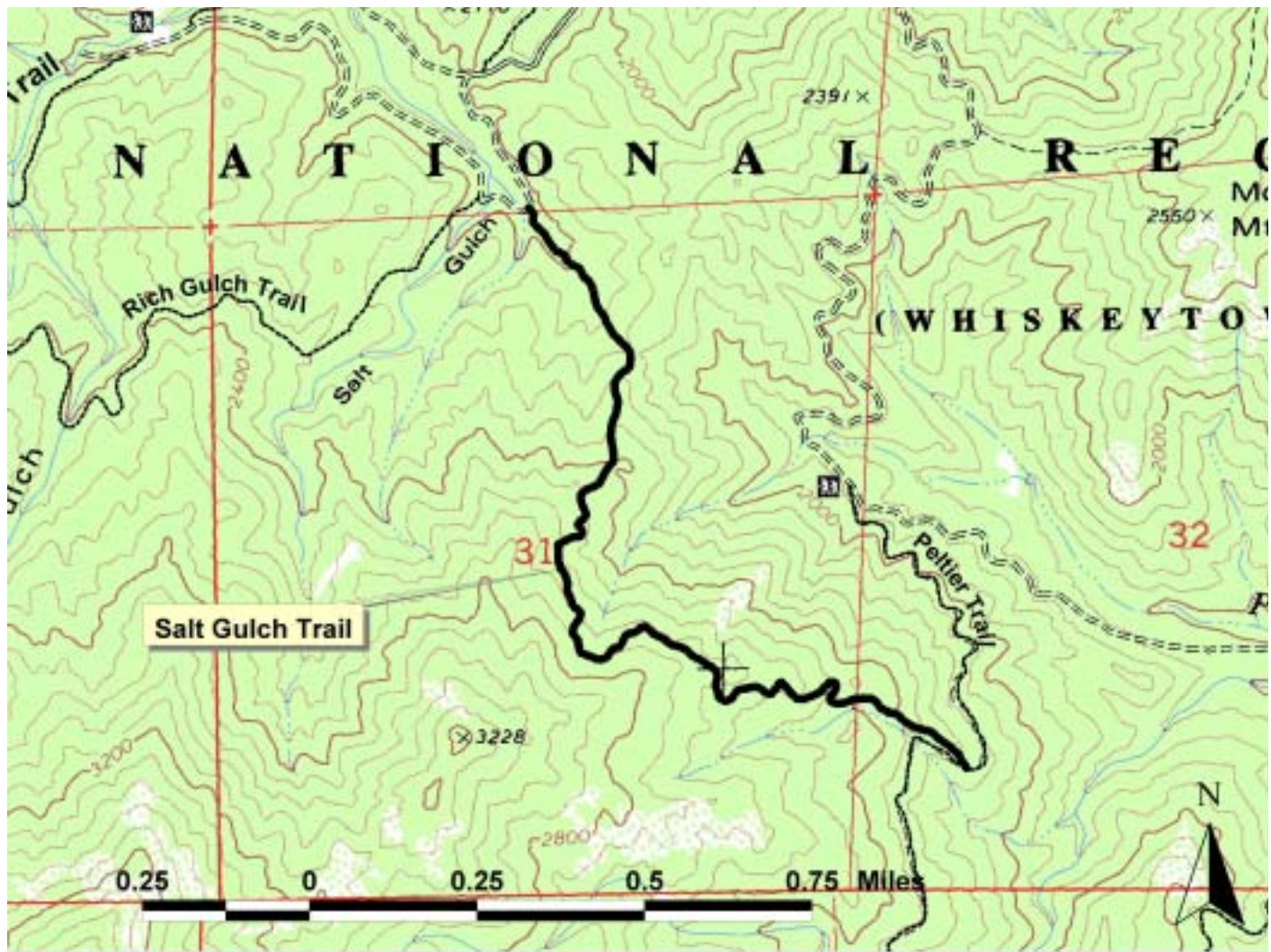
During this era, forest roads weren't engineered, and timber harvesting of the 1950s has left significant scars on the landscape. The Park is attempting to restore the natural contours of the watershed as they existed prior to logging operations.

The trail ends on the road to Brandy Creek Falls.



PINE OR FIR?

Conifers, or cone-bearing trees which include the pines and firs, are identified by their needles (which are leaves) as shown above. The different pine species are distinguished by the number (and length) of needles clustered in each bundle or "fascicle".



FLORA

Look for these plants along the trail: mock orange, bracken fern, yerba santa, mule's ears, stonecrop species, firecracker flower, showy phlox, redbud, wild grape, lupine, and red columbine.



You will find this lotus species along streambanks and in shallow water.

Showy phlox is just that, with its tiny, but bright pink notched petals.



These lovely red columbine flowers light up the landscape with their bright, colorful petals.



Ferns, some of the oldest plants known, are living fossils. Here, bracken ferns lend a prehistoric and lush green touch to the forest.

